



***This report is a short summary of the activities of Rainbows4Children in the year 2016. More details on any specific issue are available by contacting Max & Kathryn Robinson at [info@rainbows4children.org](mailto:info@rainbows4children.org)***

## **Project Progress - Nicolas Robinson School**

### **1. Building and equipment installed during 2016**

At the secondary school, we built informal eating areas for the students. These are being enjoyed by the students and during 2017 we aim to build more similar break-out areas. A donor continues to help us with the landscaping of the school, supporting the purchase of many trees and bushes as well as supporting the salaries of the gardeners and the purchase of a compost shredder. A volunteer trained gardeners and scientists in compost making in February and this helps to make the soil more fertile. Another volunteer will continue the work in 2017. The sponsored walk in 2016 raised enough money for us to build showers in the secondary school as well as a Federation of American Women's Clubs helping to provide a water cleaning unit so we can use well water to provide drinking quality water for the showers.

In 2017 our aim is to complete the sports tracks and sports training areas in the secondary school.



*Vegetables being grown*



*Students busy in the labs*



*Reedbed preparation to clean Shower waste water*



*Water cleaning installation showers, training the staff, the showers in operation.*

### **2. Students and performance**

In the school year 2016-17, the student registration was 269 students in the kindergarten, 775 students in the primary school (grades 1-8) and 335 students in the Secondary School (grades 9-12). Approximately 70% of the students come from families where the parents have disabilities. The male:female ratio is 50:50, and there is no discrimination on gender, politics, religion or race. In every year since 2012, when the first students took national exams, 100% of the students passed the national exams at the end of grades 8, 10, 12. The Nicolas Robinson School was ranked no.1 in Mekele after an evaluation by the Education Bureau.

Our workshops are currently being used for Technical drawing classes and other ad hoc training. Early in 2017 formal training will start in hospitality and later garment production.



*Grade 10 in class*

*KG learning by play*

*IT classes start at grade 1*

### 3. Sponsorship programme

By the end of 2016, 430 students were sponsored to go to school through the Rainbows4Children sponsorship programme thus giving them a chance that their families could not otherwise afford. In addition, 17 sponsored school students are also now sponsored in their University studies, after they left the school. We still need 500 more sponsors.

### 4. Supplementary food programme

Started in 2011, the supplementary food programme continued for all students at the school. Every day the students are given extra food to provide better nutrition (protein, vitamins) in the form of eggs, banana, milk, orange or other seasonal fruit. This program continues to pay dividends in the form of better health - especially elimination of anaemia, skin ailments and better levels of concentration and learning in class. We are seeking a new sponsor in 2017.



*KG children enjoying their milk in the eating room*

### 5. Volunteers

During 2016 approximately 20 volunteers from Europe gave their time and skills to teach science, English and teaching techniques. We continually have a need for volunteers and thank those who visited in 2016 for their great support. They really make a difference.

### 6. Care for the Whole Child

The school's student welfare director ensures the welfare of all the students in the school and she also provides home counselling when needed. At the end of 2014 the school and Rainbows4Children had to act quickly to save a young student diagnosed with leukemia. She had to be flown to Bangkok for medical care and treatment. In July she returned home to Mekele for maintenance of the programme and returned every 6 months to Bangkok for follow up treatment. In May 2017 she will visit for her final check up. A special appeal was launched which raised \$40,000 to support her. We need about \$10,000 more to complete the programme. The speed of reaction demonstrated a high level of cooperation within the school and showed that we are able to provide care for the students which is second to none in Ethiopia. We have some students who are suffering from a particularly bad diet or food supply issue due to family circumstances. If they are sponsored we have asked their sponsors for extra help. Otherwise we have supported them with extra food from the supplementary food programme.



## **7. Fund raising activities in 2016**

Our annual Swiss fundraiser raised about CHF 80,000.

The charity shop in Stade, Germany (sales of second hand clothes and household items) has had to close, but they have kept their German registered foundation active to enable German tax payers to make donations through them and benefit from tax deductions.

Other major donors: 2 Swiss Foundations, 1 US Foundation, 2 Rotary clubs, 6 company donations, many private individuals. Thank you all for your help.

## **8. Legal and accounting**

The statements of the 2016 accounts for the UK Foundation and Swiss registered foundations will be submitted to the appropriate governing authorities after being audited. The trustees of both foundations during 2015 were:-

Switzerland: Richard Max Robinson, Kathryn Robinson, Jean-Paul Rigauveau.

UK: John Bateson , Lynn Petersen, Derek Bird, Kathryn Robinson, Richard Max Robinson.

Reported by:

Kathryn Robinson

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